



Rio Arriba County Detention Center

(RACDC) POLICY 037A:

EMERGENCY RESTRAINT CHAIR

It shall be the policy of the Rio Arriba County Detention Facility that the utilization of the Emergency Restraint Chair will be utilized when an inmate poses a serious threat against himself or other staff or inmates when all other methods of Use of Force have failed and only to the extent necessary.

Principles Governing the Use of the Emergency Restraint Chair:

1. **Under no circumstances shall the Emergency Restraint Chair be utilized as a punishment.**
2. Staff shall attempt to gain an inmate's willing cooperation before utilizing the Emergency Restraint Chair.
3. Facility Administrator or designee approval is required prior to the application of the Emergency Restraint Chair.
4. Staff must utilize the Emergency Restraint Chair in the manner it was intended,
 - It must not be placed on the inmates face or neck as to restrict blood circulation or the inmates airways (mouth, nose, neck, esophagus)
 - It must not be placed in such a manner as to cause physical pain or extreme discomfort.
5. Check and record the inmates' condition at least every 15 minutes to ensure that the restraints are not hampering circulation or airflow and to monitor the general welfare of the inmate.
6. The shift supervisor shall review the inmate every hour. If the restraints have had a calming effect they can be removed.
7. All staff must fully document their roles in the use of the Emergency Restraint Chair.

Procedure:

1. The Emergency Restraint Chair can only be used in an extreme instance and with the approval from the Detention Administrator or designee.
2. The Emergency Restraint Chair can only be used after other least restrictive means have been exhausted and only for the amount of time necessary to gain control.
3. **The chair cannot be used as punishment.**
4. The inmate must demonstrate a total lack of control and/or possible mental disorder marked by a severe aggression and is inflicting harm to him/her self or others.
5. All staff must be trained on the use of the Emergency Restraint Chair.



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6. Documentation must occur indicating the time the inmate was restrained, who was present, who gave the authority, and at what time the inmate was taken out of the Emergency Restraint Chair. Memorandums must be completed by all staff members involved in the incident and attached to formal use of force form and submitted to the Detention Administrator before end of shift.
7. While in the Emergency Restraint Chair, the resident must be under constant staff supervision; never left unattended or unsupervised.
8. Documentation must occur in at least five minute intervals.
9. There must be fifteen minute safety checks on the "points of restraint;" that is, points where the restraints physically come into contact with the inmate. The purpose of these checks is to assure that the inmate's respiration and circulation are not impeded in any fashion.
10. If an inmate remains in the Emergency Restraint Chair through shift change documentation must be turned in by outgoing shift supervisor and incoming shift supervisor must document events on his/her shift.
11. Medical attention will be offered after every incident and documented.
12. Mental Health will be notified when appropriate and documented.
13. Documentation that must be turned in includes:
 - Use of force form
 - 5 minute watch form with notations every 15 minutes of safety checks on the points of restraints
 - Memorandum from shift supervisor that details events that led up to the incident, events that occurred during incident and how the incident concluded (time that inmate was restrained, when control was regained, where inmate was classified, who was notified)
 - Supplemental memorandums from all staff members that played a role in the incident.